

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS (CHILD CARE CENTER) REGULATIONS COLLIER COUNTY

Minimum Staff/Child Ratio Requirements

Under 1 year:	1 staff person for every 4 children
1 year olds:	1 staff person for every 6 children
2 year olds:	1 staff person for every 11 children
3 year olds:	1 staff person for every 15 children
4 year olds:	1 staff person for every 20 children
5 year olds:	1 staff person for every 25 children

In groups of mixed age ranges, where infants under 1 year are included, 1 staff person shall not be responsible for more than 4 children of any age group. Where infants over 1 year are included, 1 staff person shall not be responsible for more than 6 children of any age group. Where infants are not included the staff ratio shall be based on the age of the majority of the children in the group.

MINIMUM STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Directors of the facility must have completed the director's credential as of January 1, 2004.
- Each staff person must complete the 40-hour state mandated training course during the first year of employment and must take 10 hours of in-service training yearly after completion of the 40 hour course. In the near future all providers must exhibit competency through testing.

OTHER STAFF REQUIREMENTS:

- Each staff person must be screened for good moral character. This screening includes a state and FBI fingerprint check, an annual child abuse registry check every 5 years while employed, a local law enforcement check, and an affidavit of good moral character.
- At least one staff person with current first aid and CPR training must be on the premises at all times.

MONITORING:

Child care centers are monitored on unannounced quarterly visits by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Day Care Licensing Unit (239) 338-1341, the Environmental Health Department, and the public health nurse. These inspection reports are available to the public at the Florida Department of Children and Families, (239) 338-1341 and on the Department of Children and Families Web Site <http://www.myflorida.com/childcare>

DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES:

Child care centers must insure that age-appropriate, constructive disciplinary practices are used for children in care. Children shall not be subjected to discipline that is severe, humiliating or frightening. Discipline shall not be associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.